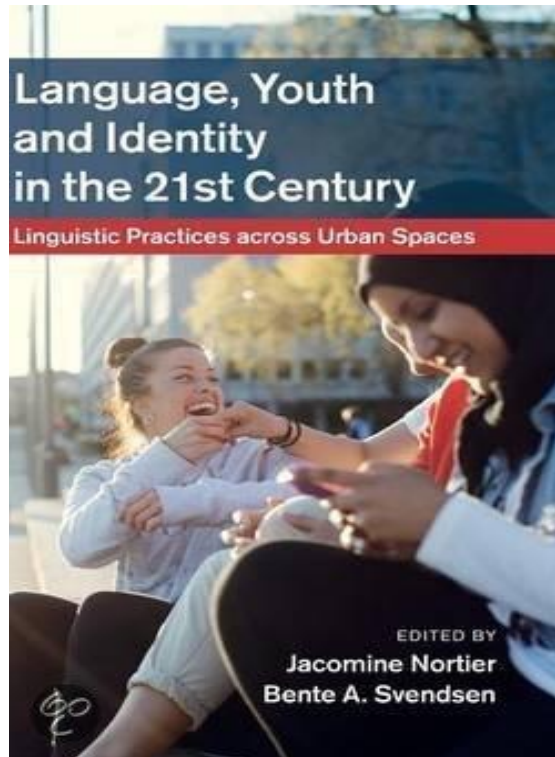


A prototype-theoretical approach to social meaning: s-palatalization in Cité Dutch

Stefania Marzo, Eline Zenner, Dorien Van De Mieroop,

Contemporary Urban Vernaculars/ Ethnolects

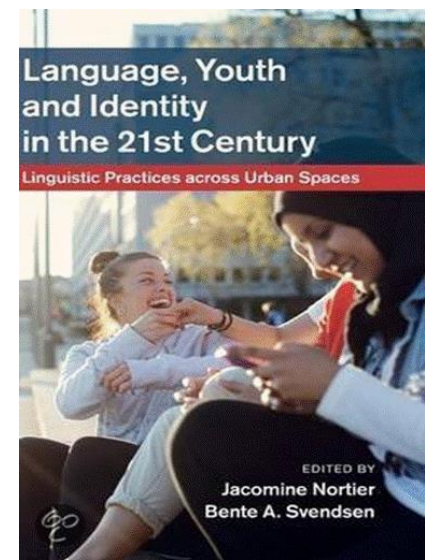


Old divide between

variety approach

practice approach

(...) *there is a need for a more integrative approach that synthetically grasps the linguistic traits, practice and ideology of these speech styles to capture the semiotics of these (...) styles.*
(Svendsen 2015: 37)



Issue

Different assessments on the **social meaning** of CUVs

- **Variety approach:**
more or less coherent urban dialects (Wiese 2015)
macro-social (gender, ethnicity, ...) and linguistic
categories (frequency, ...)
- **Practice approach:**
free and idiosyncratic *in situ* variation
depending on the interactional context

Promote a *détente* between
variety approach (inter-speaker variation)
practice approach (intra-speaker variation)

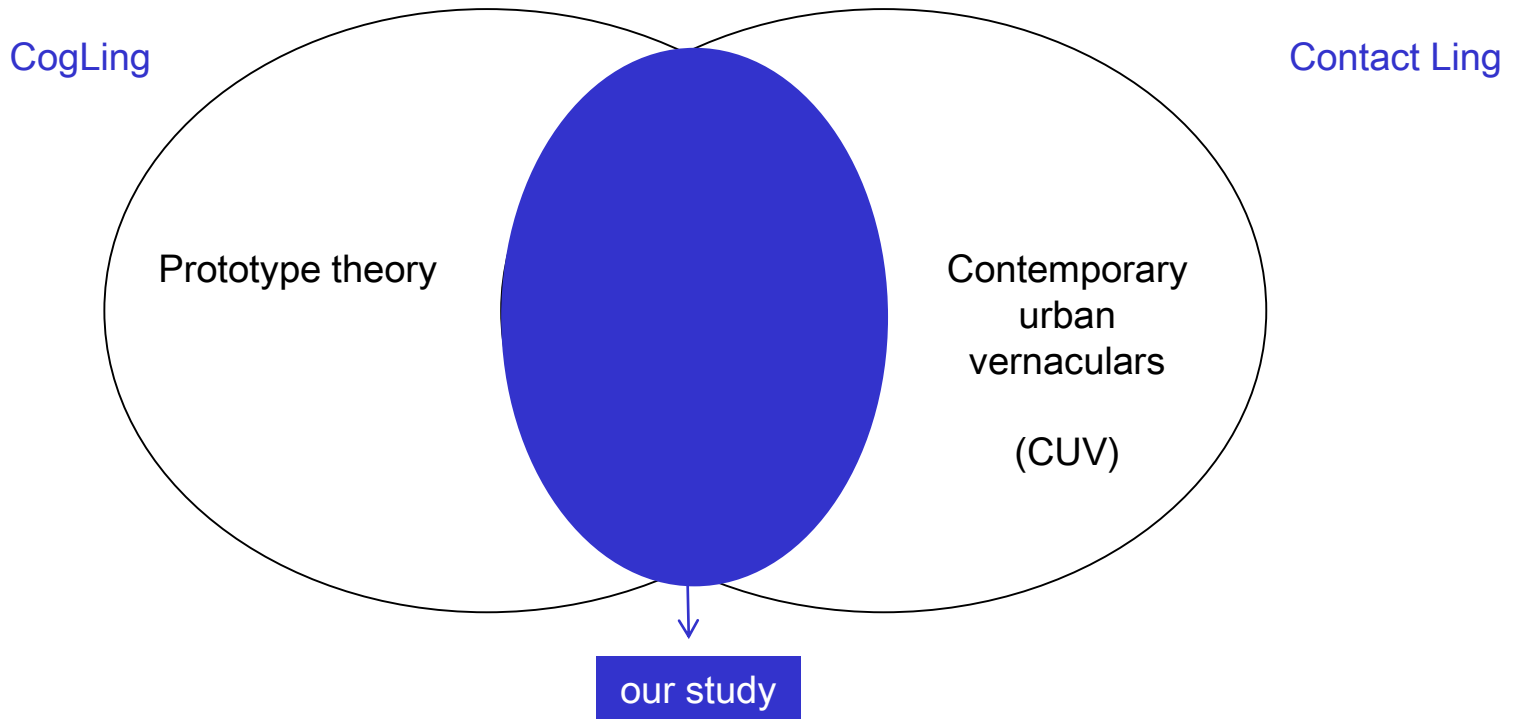
Issue

Different assessments on the **social meaning** of CUVs

- **Variety approach:**
 - more or less coherent urban dialects (Wiese 2015)
 - macro-social (gender, ethnicity, ...) and linguistic categories (frequency, ...)
- **Practice approach:**
 - free and idiosyncratic *in situ* variation
 - depending on the interactional context

Explore the possibilities of
Cognitive Contact Linguistics (e.g. Zenner, Backus,
Winter-Froemel Forthc.)

Cognitive Contact Linguistics



Overview

1. Background

- 1) Theoretical and methodological issue
- 2) Prototype theory applied to contemporary urban vernaculars

2. Testing the hypothesis/applicability

- 1) Coming up with a prototype structure for contemporary urban vernaculars
- 2) Test case: Cité Dutch in Flanders
- 3) Testing/building the prototype: a cyclical approach based on mixed methods

3. Conclusions

Prototype theory

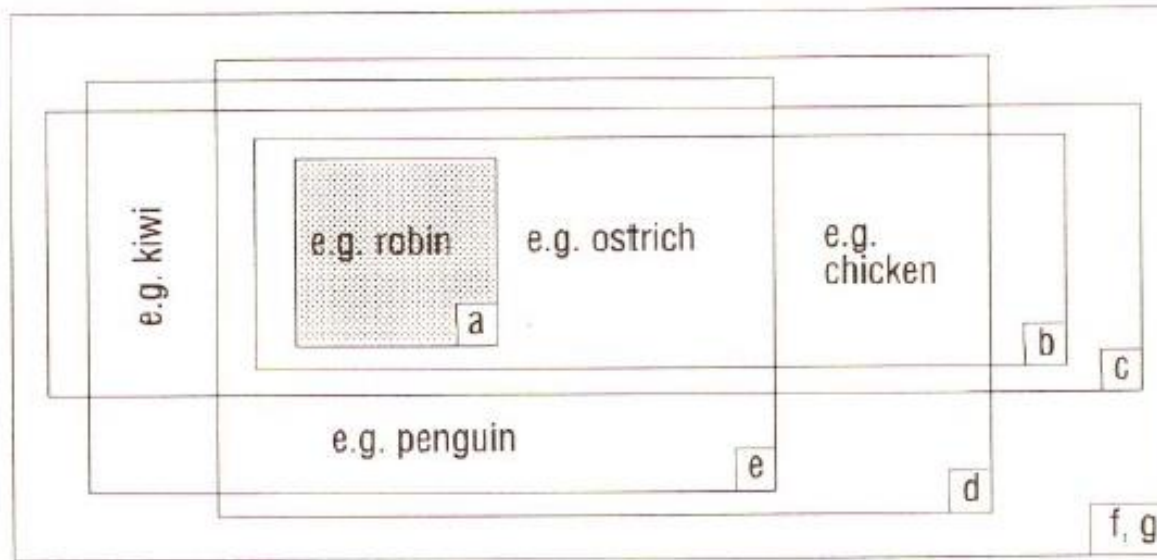
Wittgenstein: philosophy of language

Rosch: psycholinguistics

Geeraerts et al. 1994: lexico-semantics

The main idea:

- Family resemblance structure
- Category membership
- Prototypical core vs. periphery
- Salience & entrenchment
- (Semantic) feature comparison (e.g. based on frequency)



a. "Being able to fly"

b. "Having feathers"

c. "Being S-shaped"

d. "Having wings"

e. "Not domesticated"

f. "Being born from eggs"

g. "Having a beak or bill"

Geeraerts et al. 1994

Prototype theory

Wittgenstein: philosophy of language

Rosch: psycholinguistics

Geeraerts et al. 1994: lexico-semantics

The main idea:

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- Category membership
- Prototypical core vs. periphery
- Salience & entrenchment
- (Semantic) feature comparison (e.g. based on frequency)

Application to CUV's

From semantic feature comparison to social feature comparison

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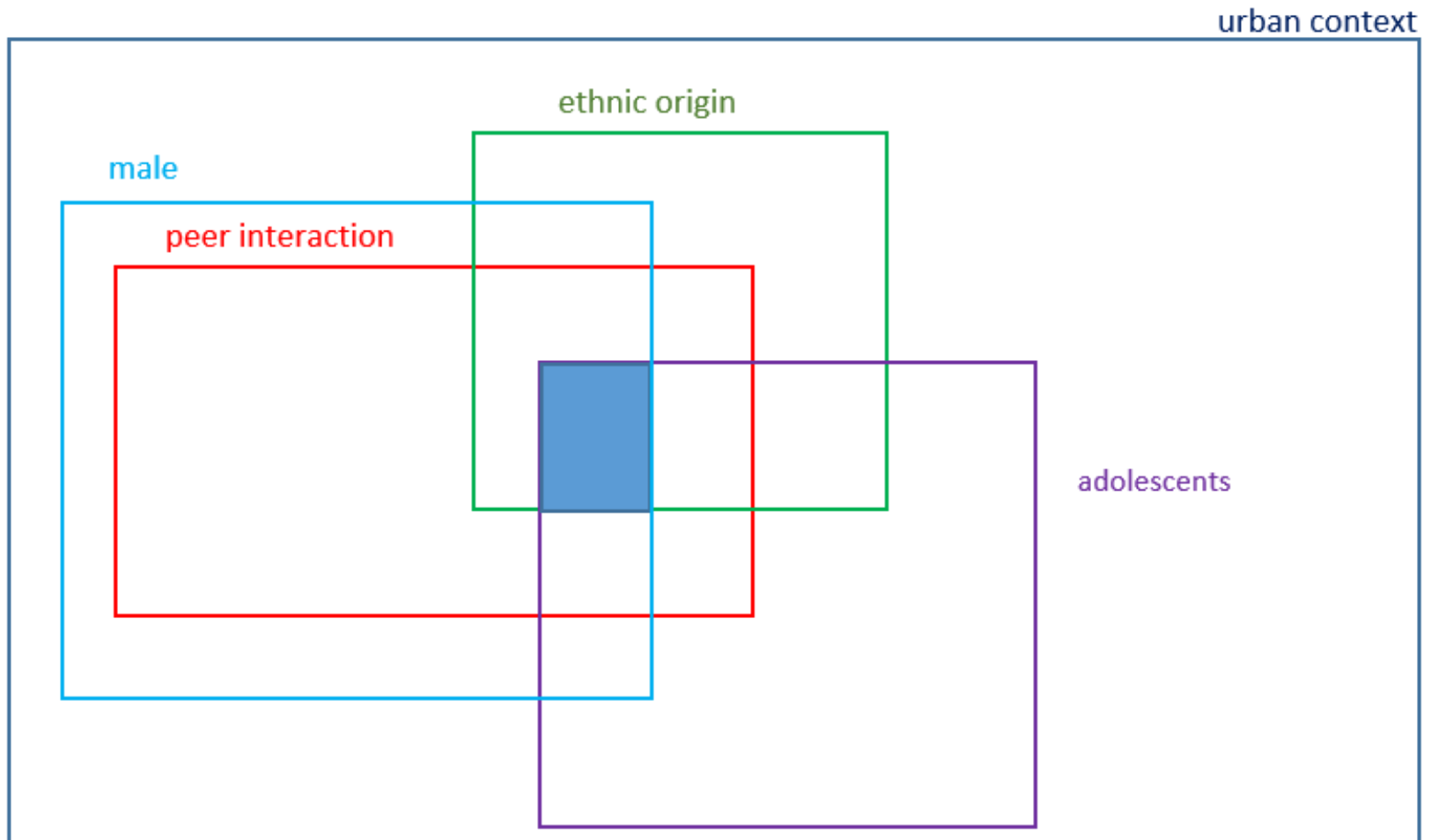
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Coming up with a prototype structure

Incorporating the parameters frequently mentioned in CUV studies:



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Cité Dutch, Citétaal ...

former ghettoized mining
areas of the city of Genk and
surroundings



Dutch + Italian, Moroccan,
Turkish, Greek, Spanish, ...

Previous studies on Cité Dutch

Two features are perceived as ‘markers’ of Cité Dutch:

Palatalization of [s] + C: *stijl* 'style', pronounced [ʃteil] instead of [steil]

Generalization of the masculine/femine articles (*de*) and demonstratives (*die*) instead of the neutre (*het* and *dat*): *de/die boek* ‘the/that book’ for *het/dat boek*

(Marzo & Ceuleers 2011)

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(Marzo & Ceuleers 2011)

Data

The data:

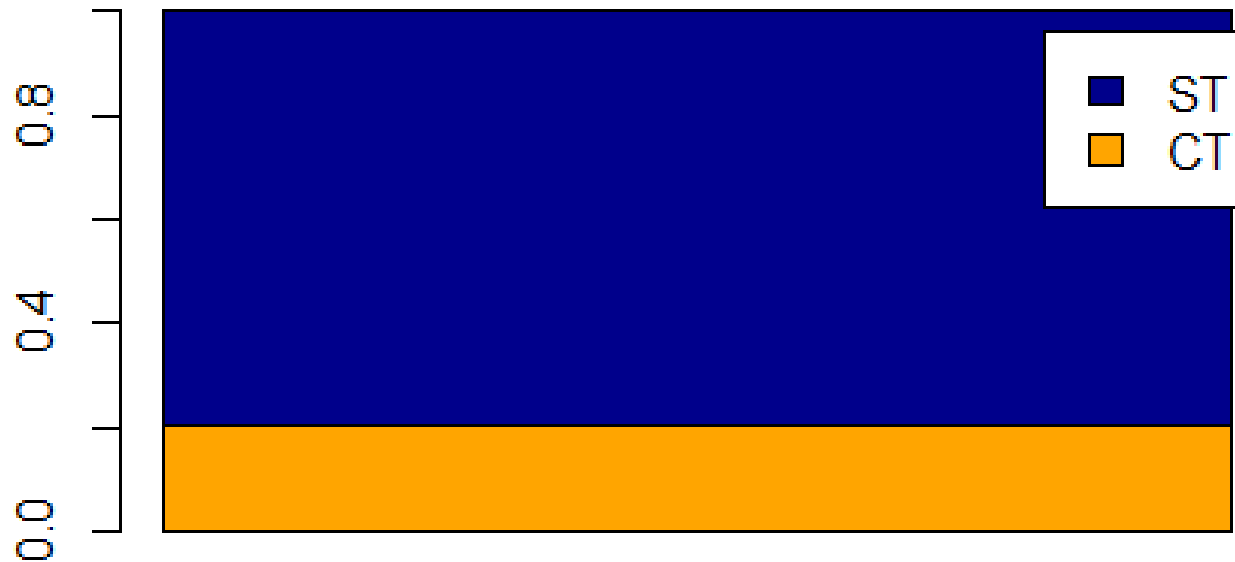
- 16 hours of recordings
- 8 adolescents and their network (n=40)
- spontaneous interactions
 - at home (peer and parents)
 - in leisure time (peer interactions)

Respondents:

- native Flemish or ethnic background (Italians, Moroccans, Turkish)
- age 16-23
- Genk

Palatalization

palatalization:
Cité Dutch vs. Standard Dutch



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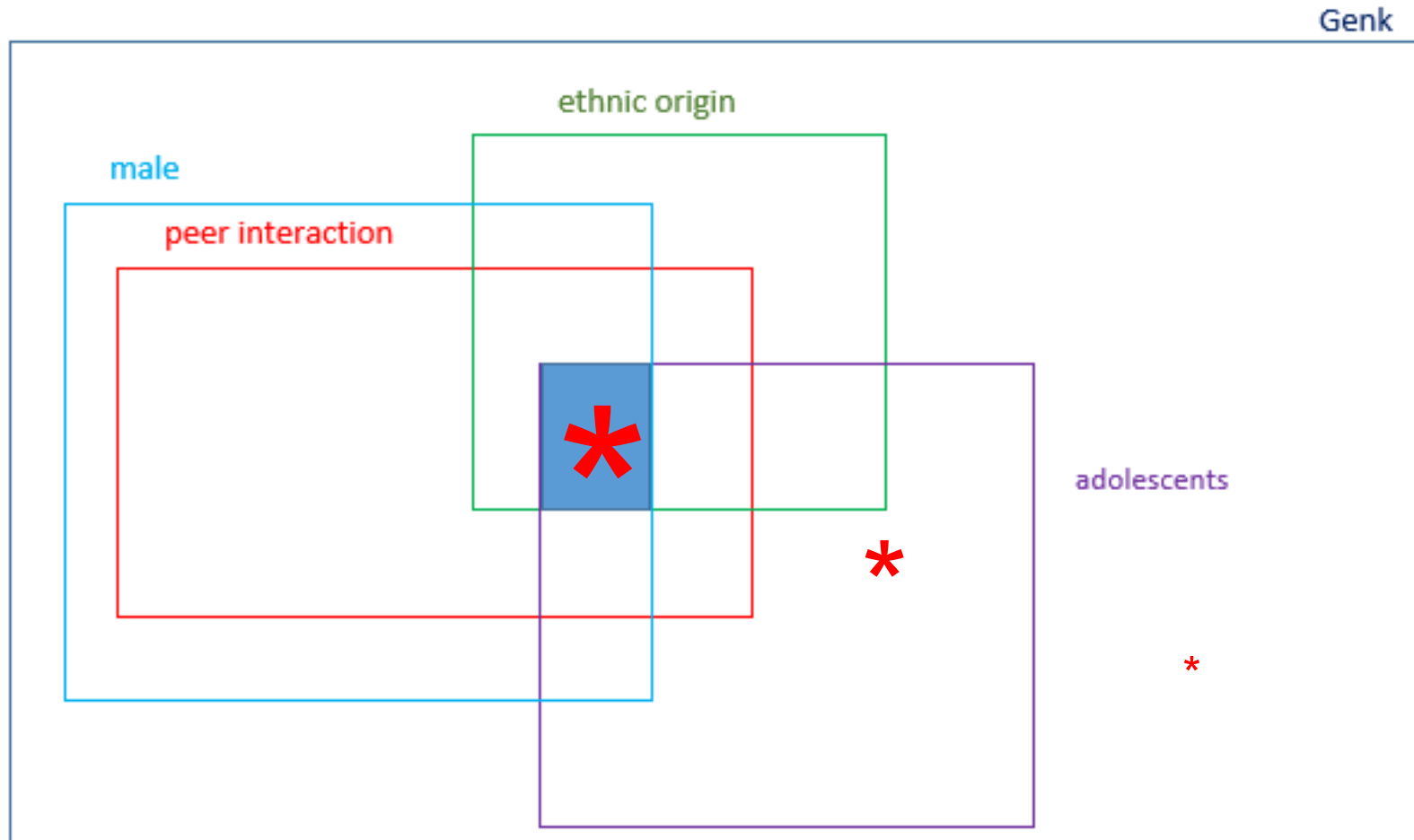
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Prototypical core for palatalization

According to the literature:



1. Francesco with friends

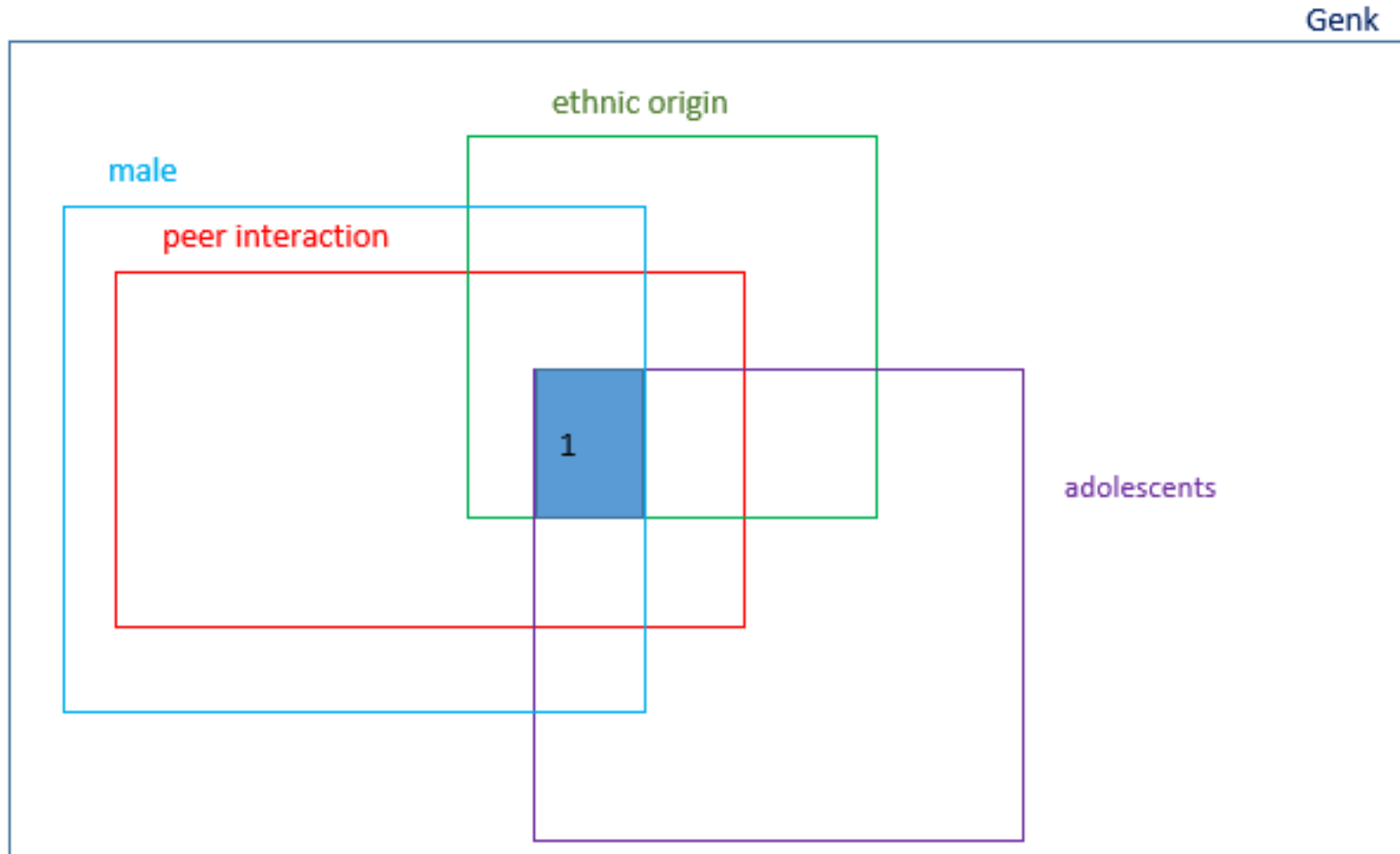
[+ adolescent]

[+ male]

[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

Test 1: Case 1



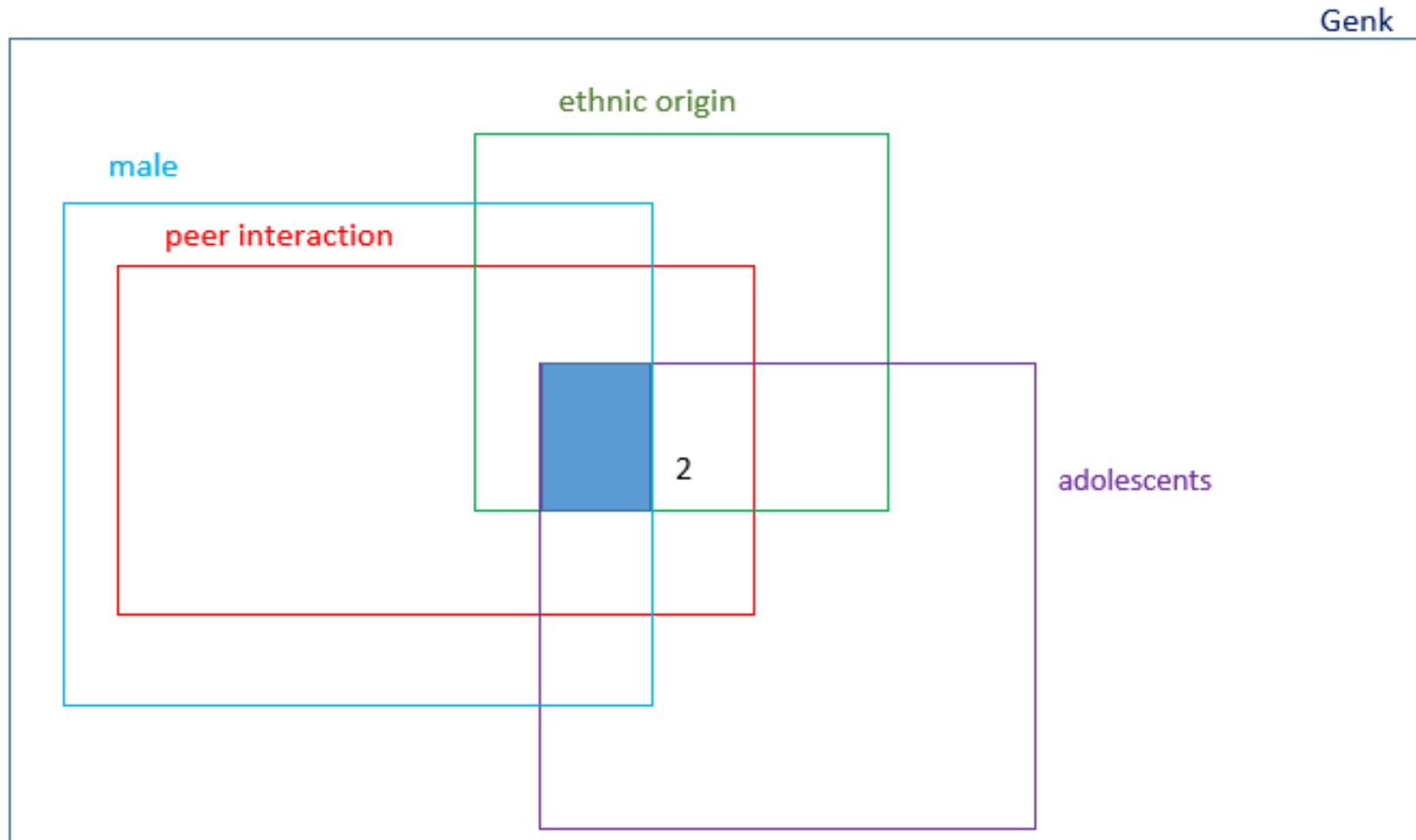
2. Chiara with friends

[+ adolescent]

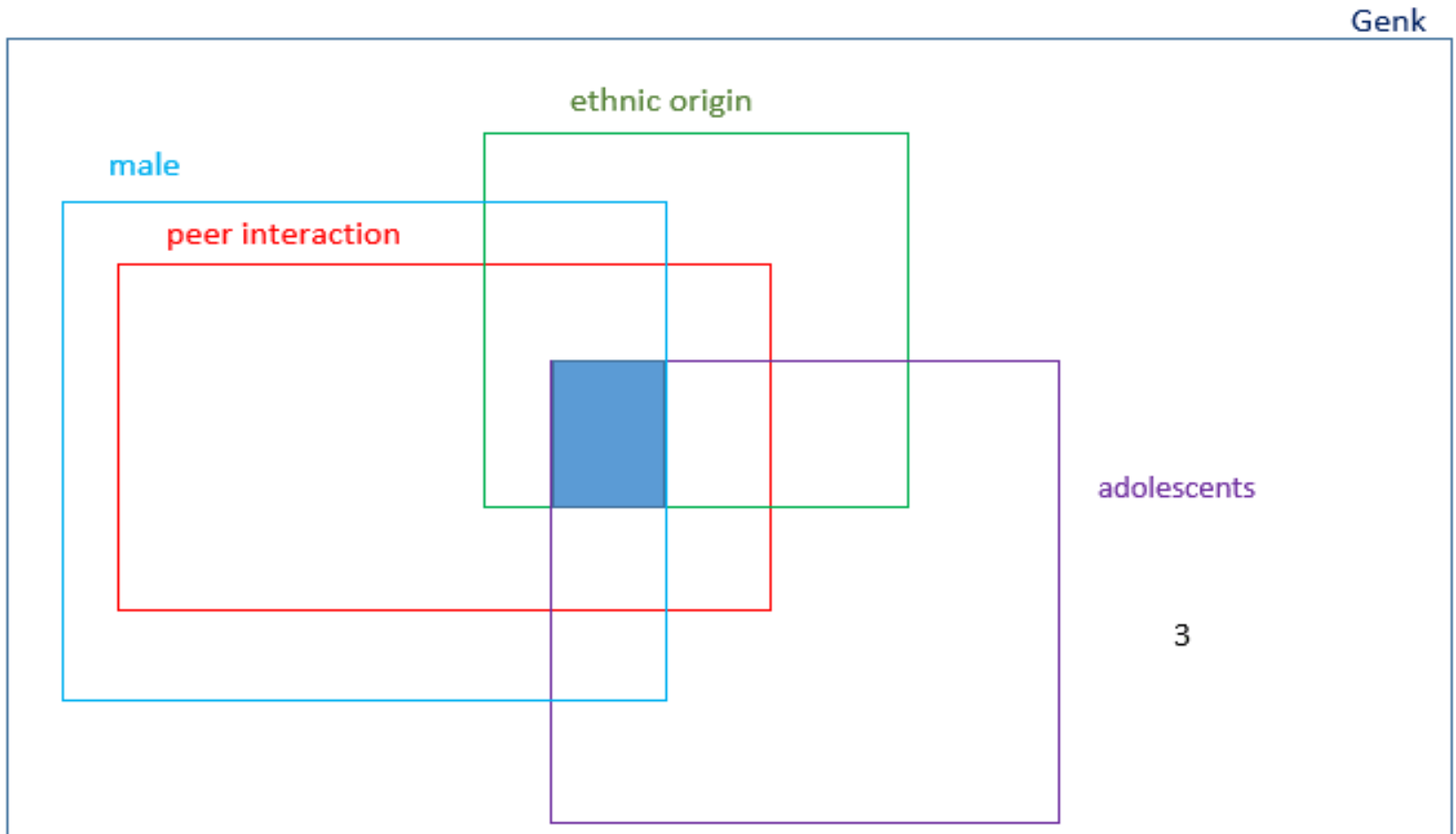
[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

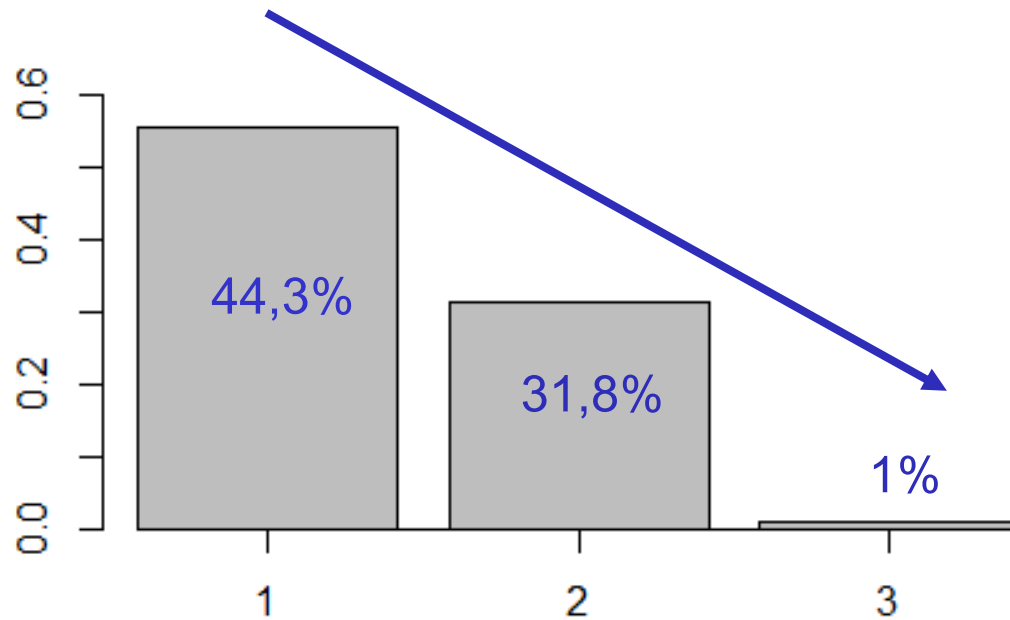
Test 1: Case 2



Test 1: Case 3

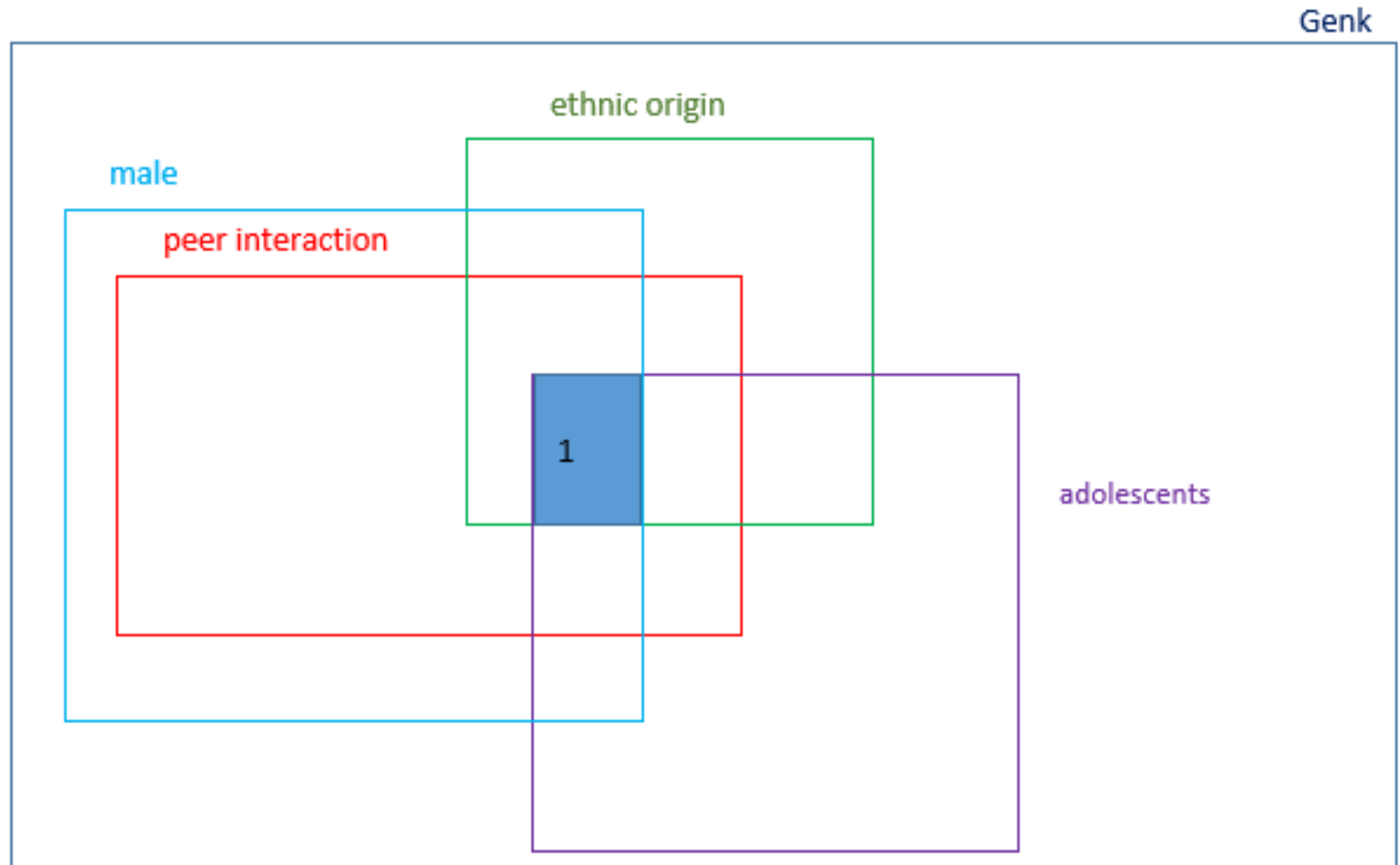


Test 1: Results



Test 2: Case 1

[+ peer interaction]



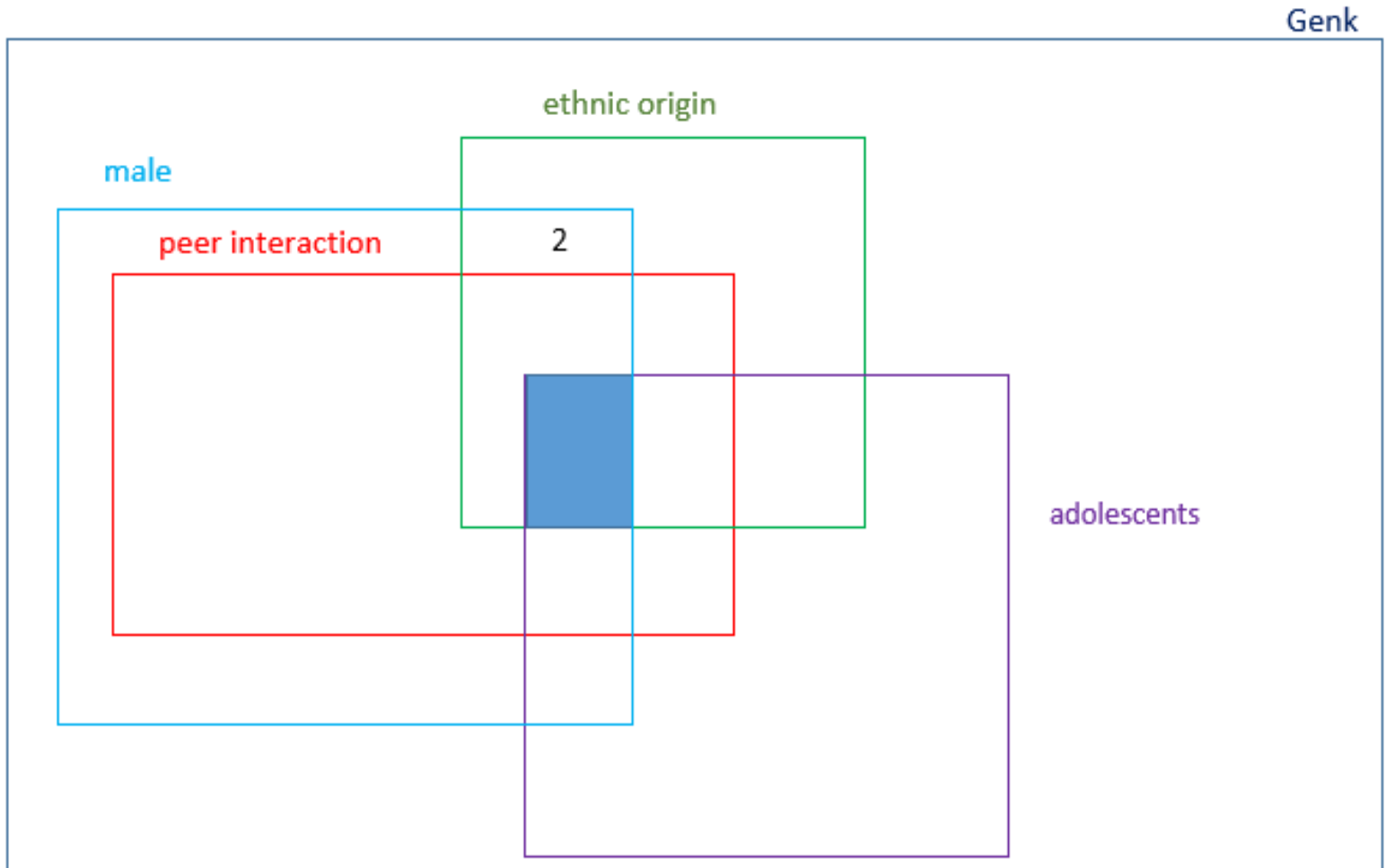
2. Francesco at home

[+ adolescent]

[+ male]

[+ ethnic origin]

Test 2: Case 2

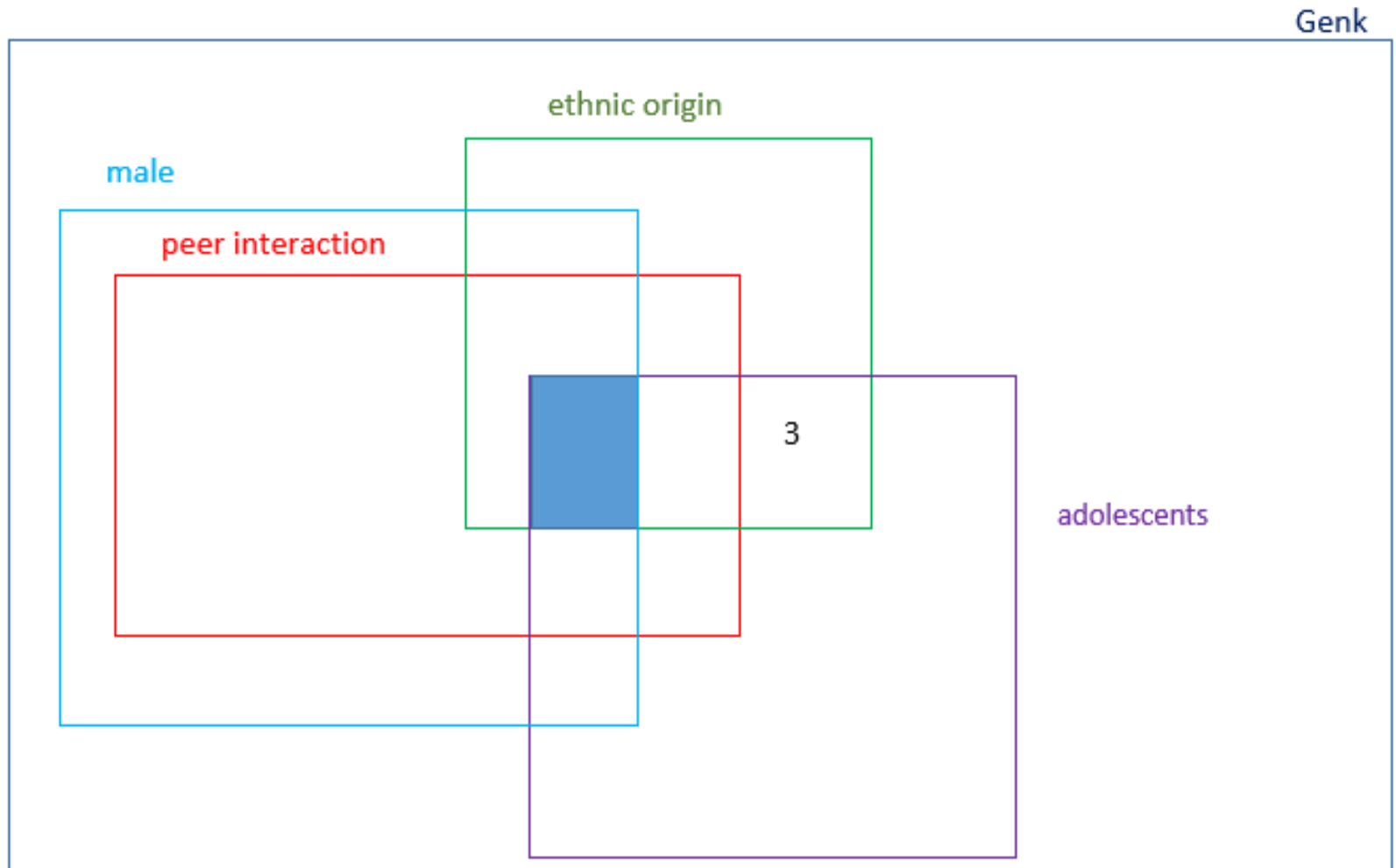


3. Chiara at home

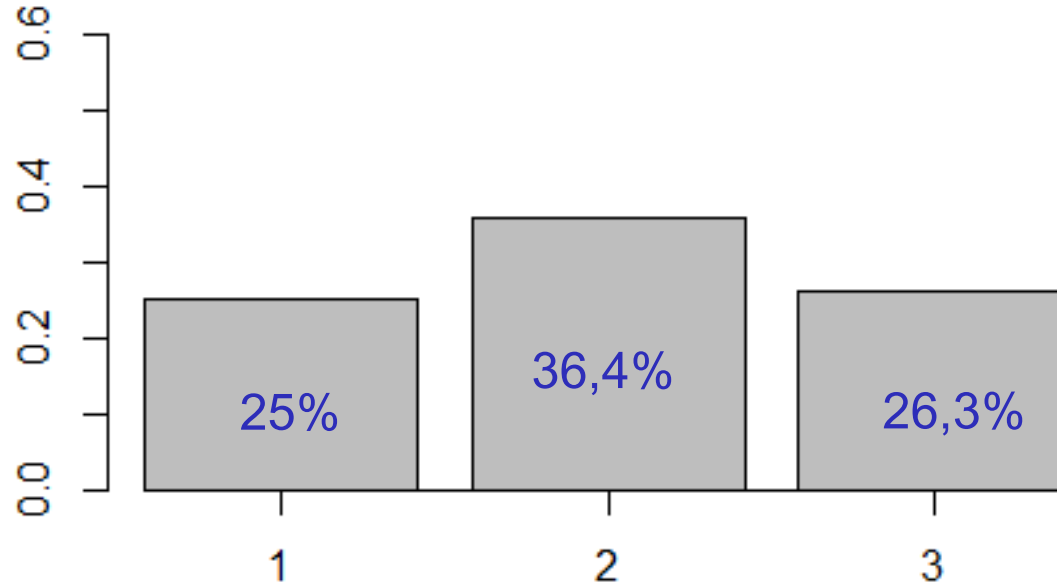
[+ ethnic]

[+ adolescent]

Test 2: Case 3

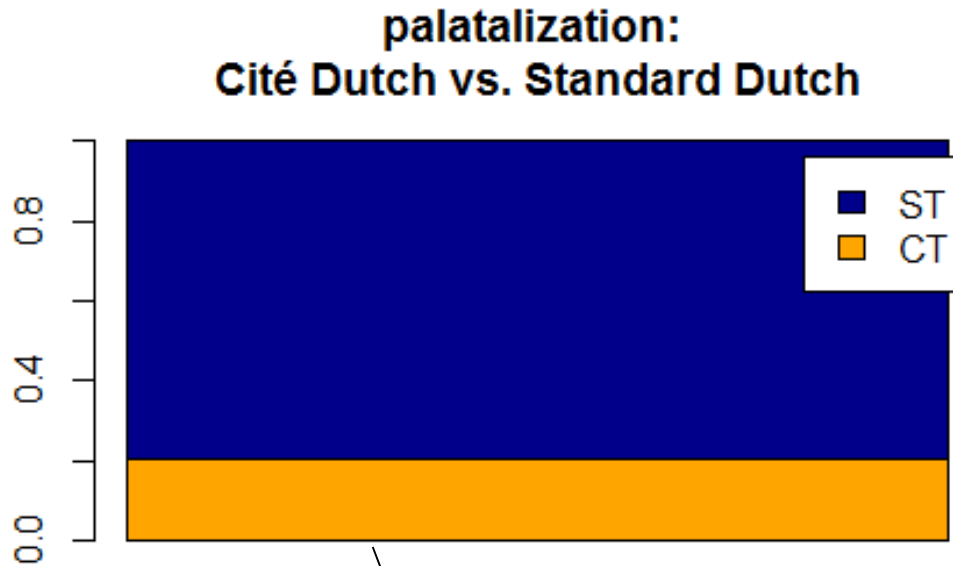


Test 2: Results



Which overarching interactional / pragmatic factors help explain this and should be added to the prototype structure?

Overall: relatively little palatalization



Contextual triggers for use of palatalization?

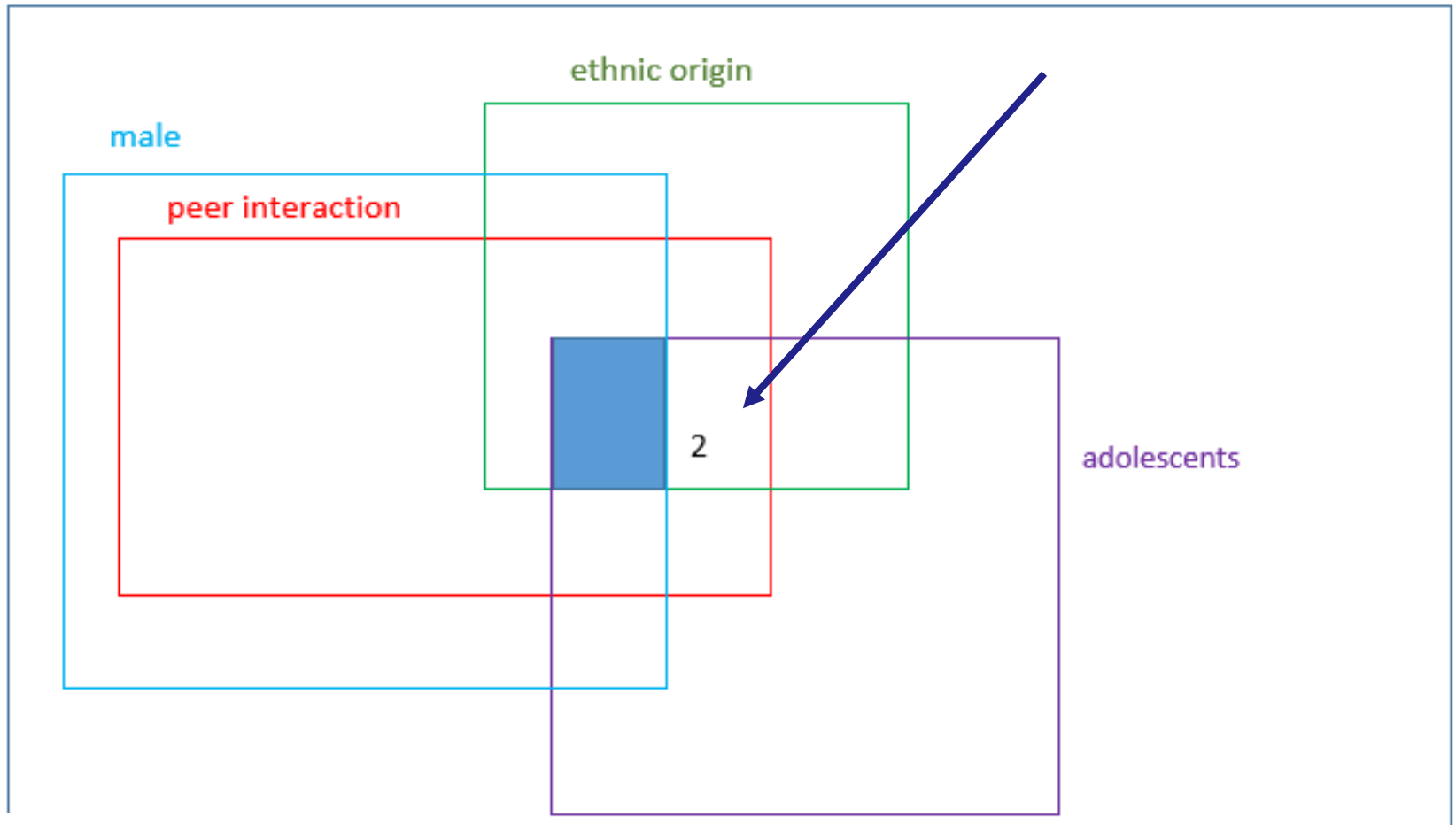
2. Chiara with friends

[+ adolescent]

[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

Genk



Addition 1 to the prototype: Commenting

- Commenting on absent others = gossiping
- Commenting on co-present others = challenging
- Commenting on oneself = self-deprecation

Addition 1a: Commenting on co-present others

| | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | SOP | ↑WA (.) doet gij nu? |
| 2 | CHI | mijn handsjchoene [aandoen |
| 3 | SOP | [wilt ge Michael Jackson nadoen of wa? |
| 4 | CAT | ↑ <u>AUW</u> ((<i>mimicking Michael Jackson</i>)) |
| 5 | SOP | nee doe 'ns (.) who's tha::t |
| 6 | CHI | who's ba::d |

information request = challenge

| | | | |
|---|-----|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | SOP | ↑ <u>WHAT</u> (.) are you doing now? | |
| 2 | CHI | putting on my [gloves | informative response + overlapping challenge |
| 3 | SOP | [do you want to imitate Michael Jackson or what? | |
| 4 | CAT | ↑ <u>AUW</u> ((mimicking Michael Jackson)) | |
| 5 | SOP | no do it once (.) who's tha::t | |
| 6 | CHI | who's ba::d | embedded correction => jocular challenging |

Addition 1b: Commenting on oneself

- 1 CHI >ah da's zo kut da' k geen boterhamme meegepakt heb<
2 k ben da zo vergeten
3 CAT ja ik zou u een koe- een euh koek wille meegeven ma-
4 (4.7)
5 CHI °ik ben zo **sjtom** ↓ eh°

observation

- 1 CHI >ah that's so crappy that I didn't take any sandwiches<
2 I've forgotten that like that
3 CAT yes I would like to give you a bis- a erm biscuit but-
4 (4.7)
5 CHI °I'm so **stupid** ↓ eh°

self-deprecation

Addition 2: Sensational storytelling

Addition 2: Sensational storytelling

[climax + resolution of a story about a chip shop robbery]

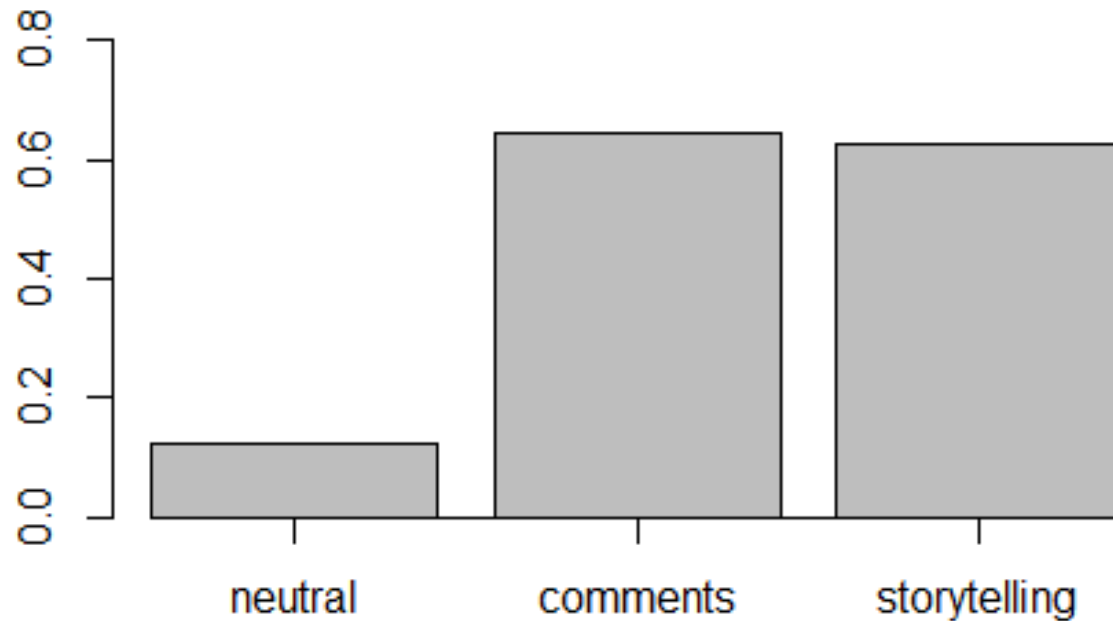
- 1 CHI and he has then just everything m-
2 the whole cash register that he earned that day
3 he just took it all () (.)out
4 he gave him a **blow [sjlag]** to his ↑ head (.)
5 and erm (.) .h yes later on a few weeks later
6 had Valotos had he opened again (.)
7 and we went there
8 and he had really here such an **abrasion [sjchaafwonde]** really
9 but yes Valotos is bald ↑ eh=
10 SOP =yes
11 CHI so you really saw here that that ↑ bump and all eh
12 where that he had **hit [gesjlagen]** him and all hey

end of the
complicating
action

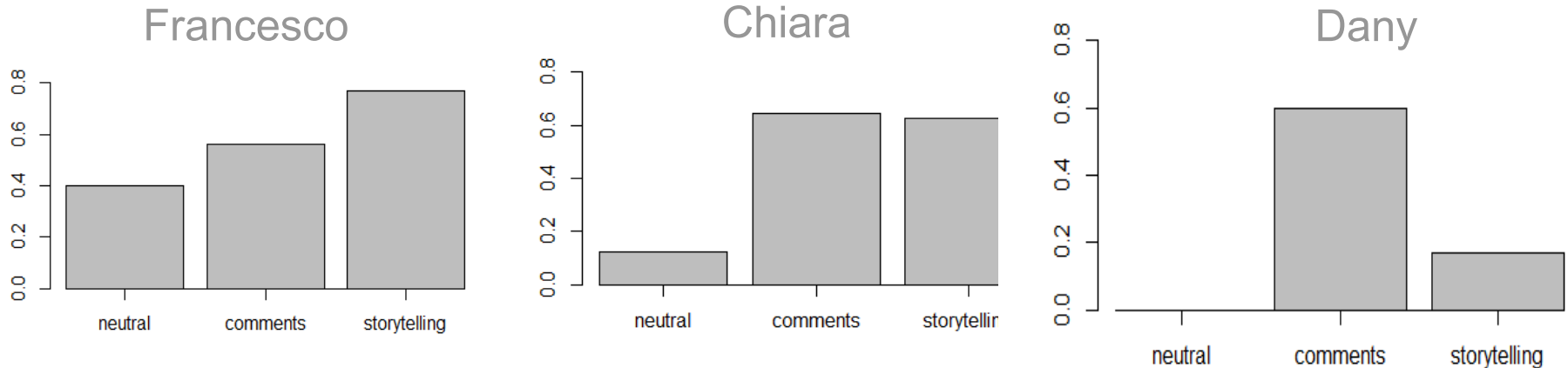
resolution in
which wounds are
topicalized

wounds are topicalized and emphasized through the elaborated discussion, through prosodic stress (pitch rises in 'head', line 4, and 'bump', line 11) and through the repeated use of s-palatalizations

% CD in Chiara's peer interactions



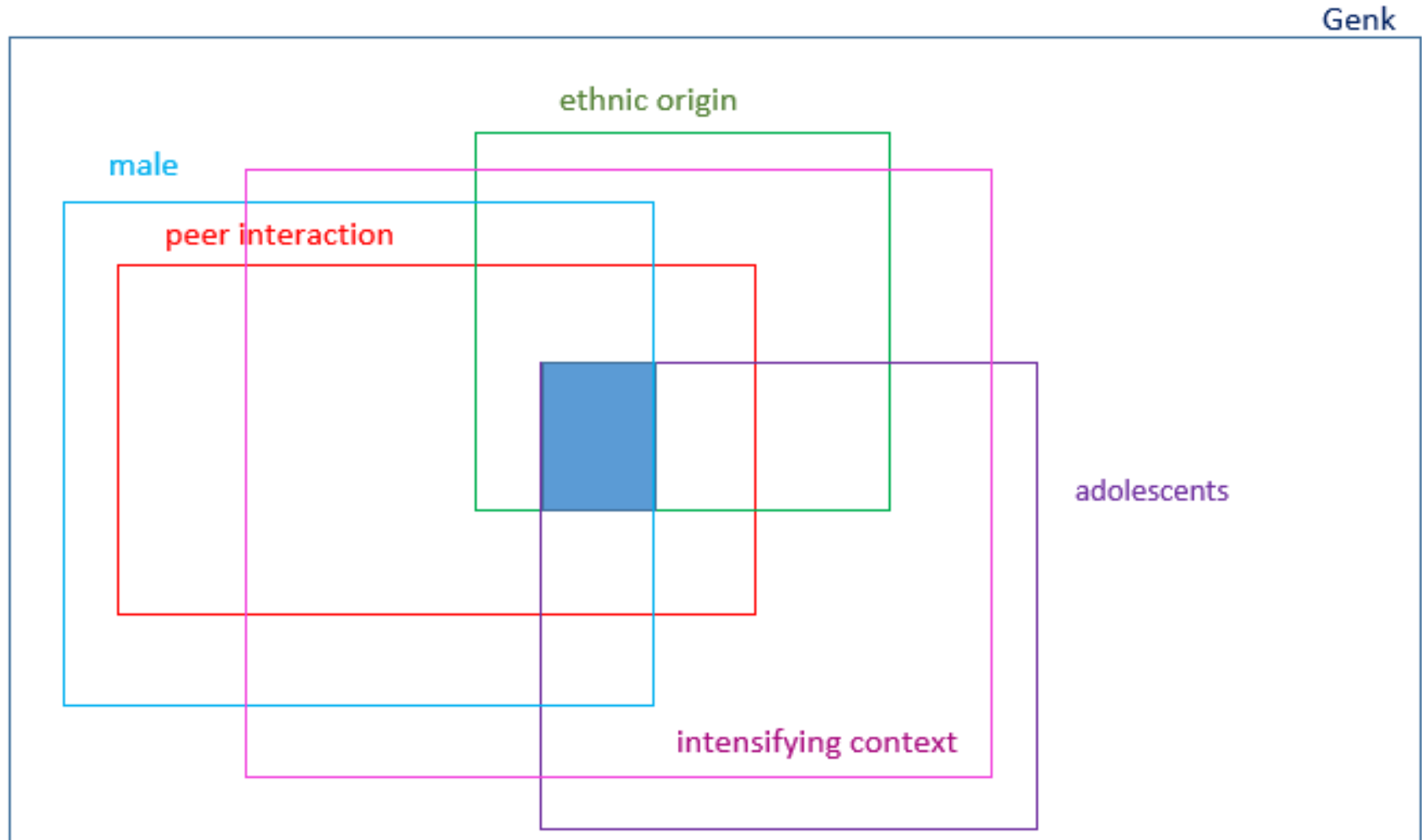
Similar patterns in others' peer interactions



⇒ local intensifying contexts are characterized by more palatalization

⇒ adding the contextual factor to the model

New prototype core for palatalization



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Conclusions

- Macro-social factors important for the design of the prototype
- To explain *in situ* variation we need additional interactional factors:
 - palatalization in quickly shifting intensifying contexts within interactions (sensational storytelling & in comments on oneself and others)
- The prototypical core for palatalization is situated at the intersection of different social factors and this intensifying context

Conclusions: Methodology

Exploration of the possibilities of cognitive contact linguistic framework and the prototype theory

- an inclusive account of the social meaning: situated at the interplay between social, interactional and linguistic factors in the use of contemporary urban vernaculars
- family resemblance and social feature comparison
- avoid causal relations

Conclusions: Theory

Perspectives for future research and results:

- repeat the cyclical process to arrive at the most optimal prototypical structure
- build a prototype for individual speakers and for other Cité Dutch features (generalization) and compare different prototypes for each speaker (intra-speaker variation)
- calculate the effect of linguistic constraints in each cell of the prototype structure

THANKS FOR LISTENING

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